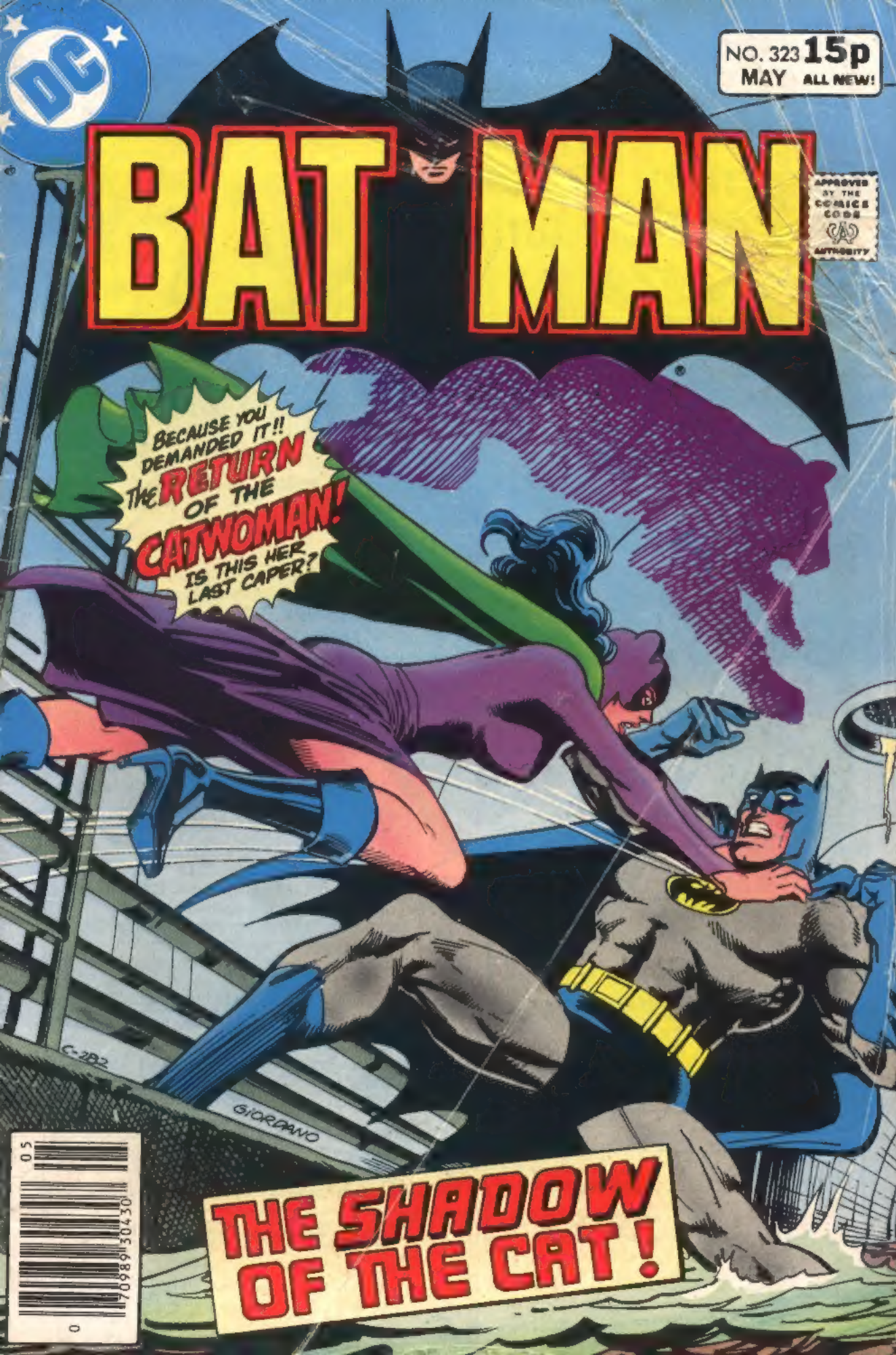
DC
NO. 323 15p
MAY ALL NEW!
BAT MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
BECAUSE YOU DEMANDED IT!!
THE RETURN OF THE CATWOMAN!
IS THIS HER LAST CAPER?
C-282
GIORDANO
THE SHADOW OF THE CAT!

ORPHANED AS A CHILD WHEN HIS PARENTS WERE MURDERED BEFORE HIS EYES, BRUCE WAYNE HAS TRAINED HIMSELF TO WAGE RELENTLESS WAR AGAINST CRIME AS THE DREAD AVENGER OF THE NIGHT...
I DON'T BAT--!
FOR MORE NIGHTS THAN HE CAN REMEMBER, HE HAS FLOWN OVER THIS CITY ON HIS SILKEN ROPE, FULFILLING HIS SACRED VOW TO BRING ALL THOSE WHO FLAUNT THE LAW TO JUSTICE--
--AND HE HAS ALWAYS ENJOYED HIS WORK... UNTIL TONIGHT!
FOR TONIGHT, HE IS ON HIS WAY TO ARREST A WOMAN HE HAS COME TO LOVE!
SHADOW OF THE CAT!
LEN WEIN WRITER / IRV NOVICK & BOB SMITH ARTISTS
GLYNIS WEIN COLORIST / BEN ODA LETTERER / PAUL LEVITZ EDITOR

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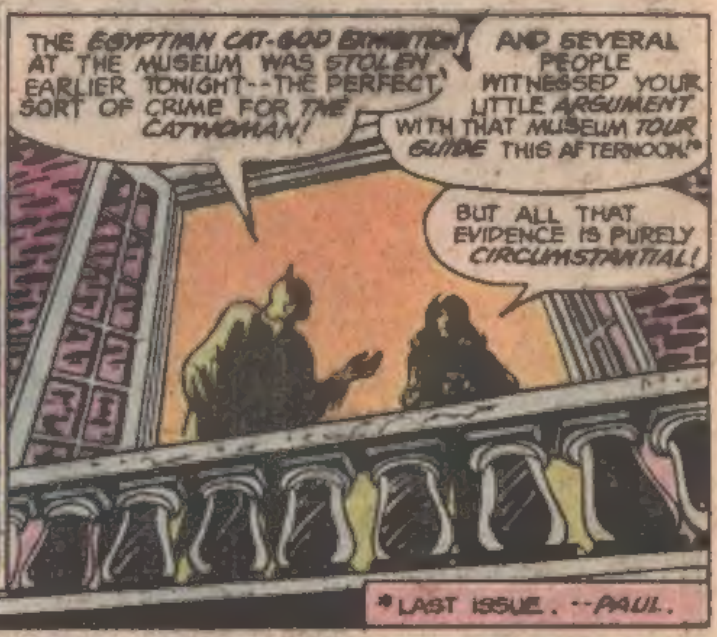
You can
Sherm
30 C

I'M AFRAID YOU ALREADY KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT, SELINA--
--I'M HERE TO ARREST YOU FOR ROBBING RIVERSIDE MUSEUM!
WHAT-?!?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

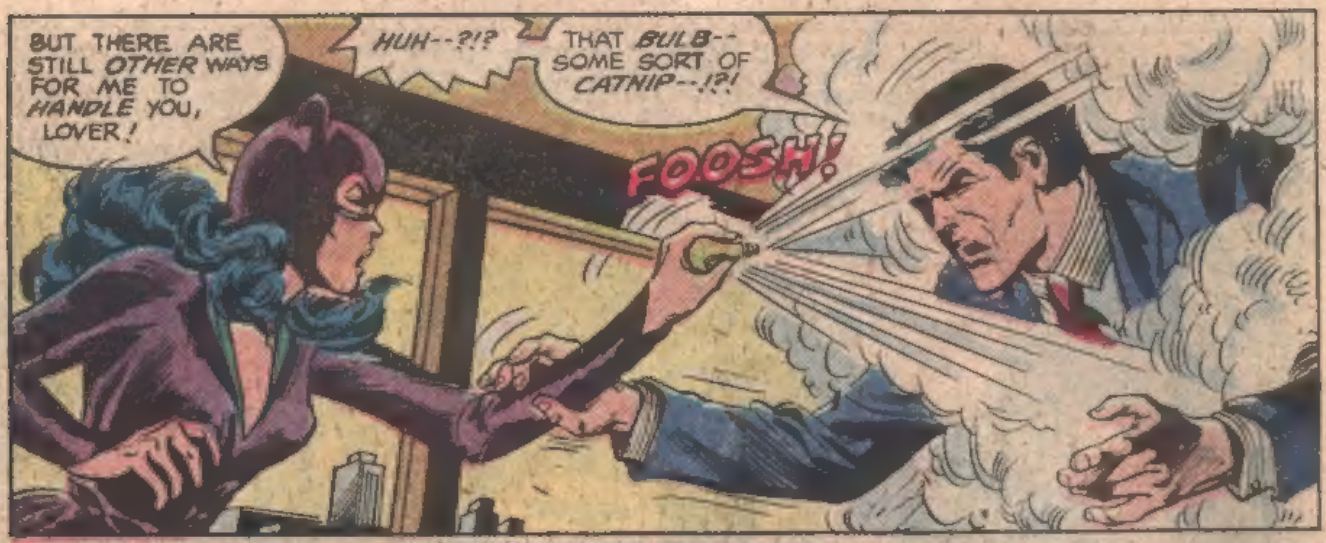

THE EGYPTIAN CAT-GOD EXHIBITION AT THE MUSEUM WAS STOLEN EARLIER TONIGHT--THE PERFECT SORT OF CRIME FOR THE CATWOMAN!
AND SEVERAL PEOPLE WITNESSED YOUR LITTLE ARGUMENT WITH THAT MUSEUM TOUR GUIDE THIS AFTERNOON!*
BUT ALL THAT EVIDENCE IS PURELY CIRCUMSTANTIAL!
*LAST ISSUE. --PAUL.

PERHAPS--BUT THE MUSEUM GUARD YOU CLAWED DURING THE ROBBERY GOT A PRETTY GOOD LOOK AT YOU AS YOU FLED...
...AND THAT'S THE SORT OF POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION THAT CAN'T BE DENIED!

THEN I PROMISE YOU I'LL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO PROVE IT, SELINA--IN A COURT OF LAW!
NOW PLEASE--FOR OLD TIME'S SAKE--COME ALONG WITH ME QUIETLY!
NO! YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--!
I CAN'T GO TO JAIL--NOT NOW!
I'LL NEVER LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO STAND TRIAL!
MEROWRR!
EH--!?!
CAT'S GOING FOR MY EYES!
HAVE TO PROTECT MYSELF!
FORGIVE ME, BATMAN!
I'M ONLY DOING WHAT I HAVE TO DO--TO SURVIVE!
SELINA--WAIT!
IT'S FOURTEEN STORIES TO THE STREET!
SHE'S GONE!
SHE SWUNG AWAY ON THE SAME BATROPE I LEFT HANGING WHEN I SWUNG IN!
WHATEVER ELSE HAS HAPPENED TO SELINA KYLE SINCE HER RETIREMENT, SHE CERTAINLY HASN'T LOST HER TOUCH!

THE MORNING SUN CASTS GOLDEN SHADOWS ACROSS GOTHAM CITY'S MAJESTIC WAYNE FOUNDATION BUILDING--
--AS AN UNDERSTANDABLY PREOCCUPIED BRUCE WAYNE ARRIVES FOR THE BUSINESS DAY...
'MORNING, GWEN. PLEASE HOLD ALL MY CALLS FOR A WHILE, OKAY?
WHATEVER YOU SAY, MR. WAYNE.
IT'S NICE TO FINALLY MEET YOU.
YEAH, IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU--
HEY--YOU'RE NOT GWEN!?
--TOO?
GWEN GOT CALLED AWAY SUDDENLY ON PERSONAL BUSINESS--SO THEY MOVED ME UP FROM THE STENO POOL.
MY NAME IS CAROLINE CROWN!
WELL, WELCOME ABOARD, MS. CROWN.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO TO MAKE YOU FEEL AT HOME HERE, JUST LET ME KNOW.
WHY THANK YOU, MR. WAYNE. I'LL REMEMBER THAT!
YOU MAKE SURE YOU DO.
SO THAT'S THE LEGENDARY BRUCE WAYNE, HUH? BOY, IS HE CUTE.
THIS MAY JUST TURN OUT TO BE A VERY INTERESTING JOB!
AND AS THE DOOR TO WAYNE'S INNER OFFICE CLICKS SHUT...
WELL, IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU FINALLY GOT HERE!
WHO--?!?
I'VE BEEN WAITING HERE FOR HOURS!
GOOD LORD NOT YOU!
NOT HERE?!?
4
CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING

I HAD NOWHERE ELSE TO GO! I NEED YOUR RESOURCES, BRUCE -- DESPERATELY!
AND IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU WON'T ASK QUESTIONS!
THE WOMAN I LOVE IS SELINA KYLE... NOT THE CATWOMAN!
IT APPEARS THE POLICE WERE RIGHT--!
ABOUT ME ROBBING THAT MUSEUM? THEY COULDN'T BE MORE WRONG!
THEN WHY THE COSTUME?
BECAUSE IT... HELPS.
SELINA, I CAN HELP -- IF YOU'LL LET ME!
OH YES, BRUCE... PLEASE! I DON'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO TURN!
THEN TURN YOURSELF IN! I PROMISE I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO CLEAR YOU...
...THE BEST LAWYERS... THE BEST DETECTIVES...!
NO! YOU SOUND JUST LIKE THE BATMAN--
-- AND YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND ANY MORE THAN ME DID!
I'M SORRY, SELINA -- BUT FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, I CAN'T LET YOU RUN!
FOOL! DO YOU THINK YOU CAN STOP ME?
WITH ONE SWIPE OF MY CLAWS, I CAN --
-- NO.
I -- I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO HURT YOU -- NOT YOU!
5


BUT THERE ARE STILL OTHER WAYS FOR ME TO HANDLE YOU, LOVER!
HUH--?!?
THAT BULB-- SOME SORT OF CATNIP--!?!
FOOSH!

THE STUFF... MUST BE SPECIALLY TREATED...
CAN'T STOP... SNEEZING...!
AH-CHOO!
AH-CHOO!
AH-CHOO!

AND WHEN THE OVERCOME EXECUTIVE FINALLY MANAGES TO REGAIN CONTROL OF HIMSELF SECONDS LATER...
BLAST--! SHE'S VANISHED AGAIN--!
I'VE FAILED HER--IN BOTH MY IDENTITIES!

IF ONLY I HAD SOME IDEA WHY SHE--EH?
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MR. WAYNE? I HEARD YOU SNEEZING, AND I WAS AFRAID, THAT--
IT'S OKAY, MS. CROWN-- I'M FINE.

STILL, YOU MIGHT CONSIDER GOING TO BED. A COLD CAN BECOME PNEUMONIA, YOU KNOW.
THANKS FOR YOUR CONCERN, CAROLINE.
IT'S MY PLEASURE... BOSS.

I CAN UNDERSTAND SELINA LYING TO THE BATMAN--BUT NOT TO BRUCE WAYNE! SHE HAD NOTHING TO GAIN BY IT!
BUT IF SHE REALLY IS INNOCENT--IT WON'T BE EASY TO PROVE IT!
6

RIVERSIDE MUSEUM, AN HOUR AFTER CLOSING--WHERE NOTHING MOVES EXCEPT SHIFTING MOONLIT SHADOWS--
--AND A NERVOUS NIGHT WATCHMAN WHO HAS BEEN INTERRUPTED IN THE COURSE OF HIS NORMAL ROUNDS...
OKAY, WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE? THIS PLACE IS SUPPOSED TO BE OFF-LIMITS TO--HUH?
THE ROOM IS--EMPTY!?!?
CLICK!
BUT I COULD'VE SWORN I HEARD SOMEBODY PROWLIN' AROUND IN HERE!
Y'KNOW, MAYBE EMMA IS RIGHT!
MAYBE IT'S TIME FOR ME TO QUIT DOIN' ALL THIS NIGHT WORK--AN' GET MYSELF A NORMAL JOB!
CLICK!
AND WHEN THE ECHOES OF WEARY FOOTSTEPS HAVE FINALLY FADED...
THAT WATCHMAN WAS A LOT BETTER AT HIS JOB THAN HE GAVE HIMSELF CREDIT FOR!
JUST GLAD HE DIDN'T THINK TO GLANCE UP--OR HE'D HAVE SPOTTED ME BRACED AGAINST THE CEILING!
THIS ROOM HAS BEEN SEALED OFF SINCE LAST NIGHT'S ROBBERY!
THE POLICE FORENSIC TEAM ONLY GAVE IT THE ONCE-OVER--SINCE THEY FIGURED THEY ALREADY HAD THE THIEF IDENTIFIED!
SO WITH ANY LUCK, THERE'S STILL SOMETHING HERE THEY MISSED--SOMETHING THAT MIGHT GIVE ME A CLUE TO THE REAL--
--THERE!
A PIECE OF THREAD--SNAGGED ON ONE OF THE EXHIBIT CASES!
BETTER GET BACK TO THE BATCAVE--AND SEE WHAT IT CAN TELL ME!
7

WHILE IN A GRIMY PAWNSHOP IN A LESS-THAN-AFFLUENT PART OF GOTHAM--
--A LESS-THAN-ADMIRABLE FIGURE SITS HUNCHED OVER A WELL-WORN GEM-STREWN WORK TABLE, SOFTLY CHUCKLING...
I KNOW A CERTAIN COLLECTOR WHO'LL BUY THESE PEARLS FOR TWICE WHAT I PAID FOR THEM!
GOOD FOR YOU, PINCH!
THAT SHOULD JUST ABOUT PAY FOR YOUR HOSPITAL BILL --UNLESS YOU'RE SMART ENOUGH TO TALK TO ME!
CATWOMAN--?!?
I'D HEARD YOU'D RETIRED FROM THE BUSINESS, DEAR LADY--BUT APPARENTLY THE GRAPEVINE WAS WRONG!
EXACTLY WHAT CAN OLD PINCH DO FOR YOU, MY DEAR?
WELL, FOR ONE THING--
--YOU CAN GIVE ME THAT LITTLE TOY YOU HAD HIDDEN IN THAT DRAWER BEFORE IT ACCIDENTALLY GOES OFF AND HURTS SOMEONE!
SWACK!
HUH--?!?
YOU--YOU HURT ME!
NOT NEARLY AS BADLY AS I'M GOING TO, OLD MAN-- UNLESS YOU TELL ME WHAT I NEED TO KNOW!
YOU ARE GOING TO BE A SWEETHEART AND DO THAT LITTLE THING FOR ME...
...AREN'T YOU, PINCH?
ANYTHING, CATWOMAN-- YOU JUST ASK!
TRUST ME, LITTLE MAN--I WILL!
PLOK!
8

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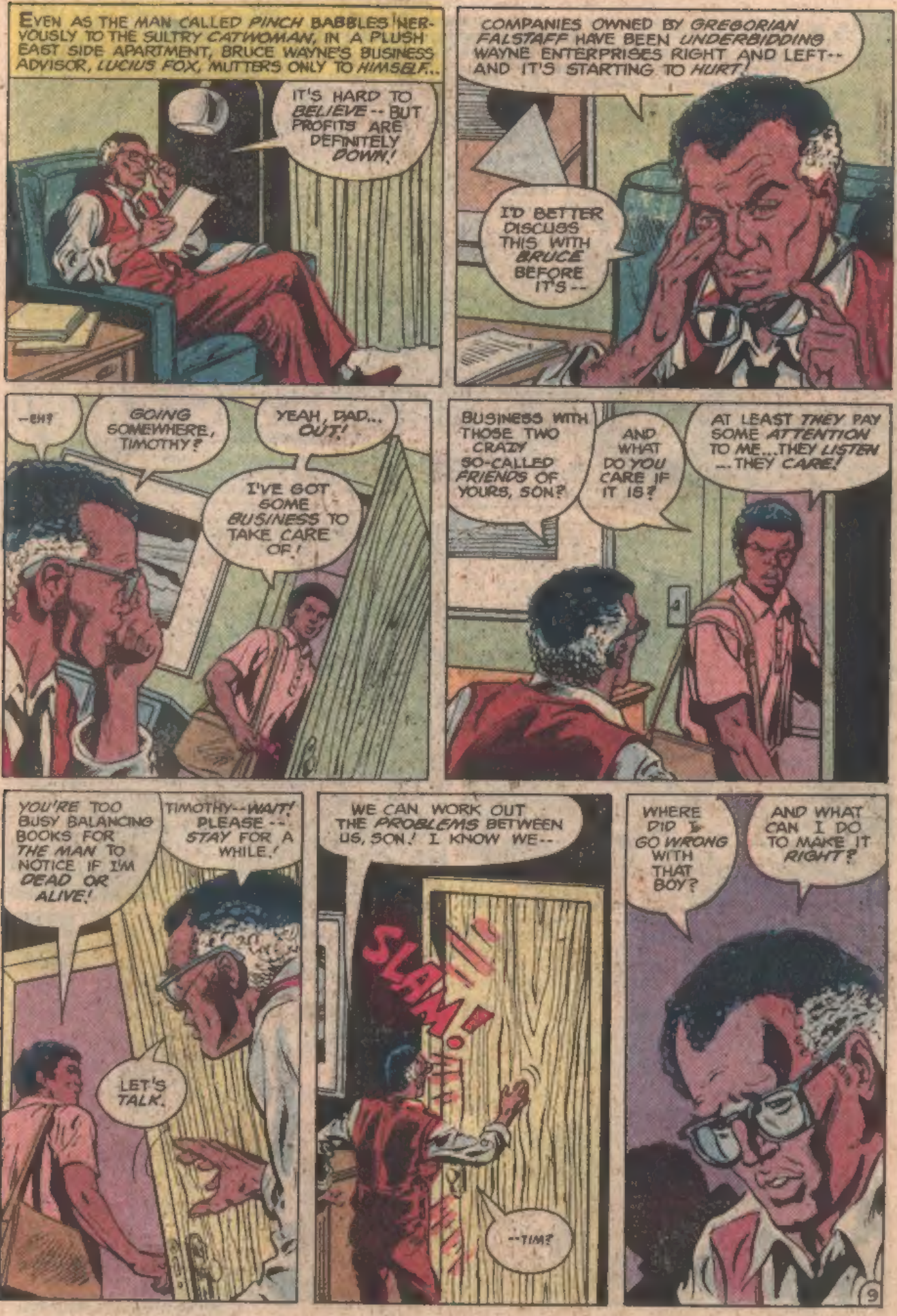
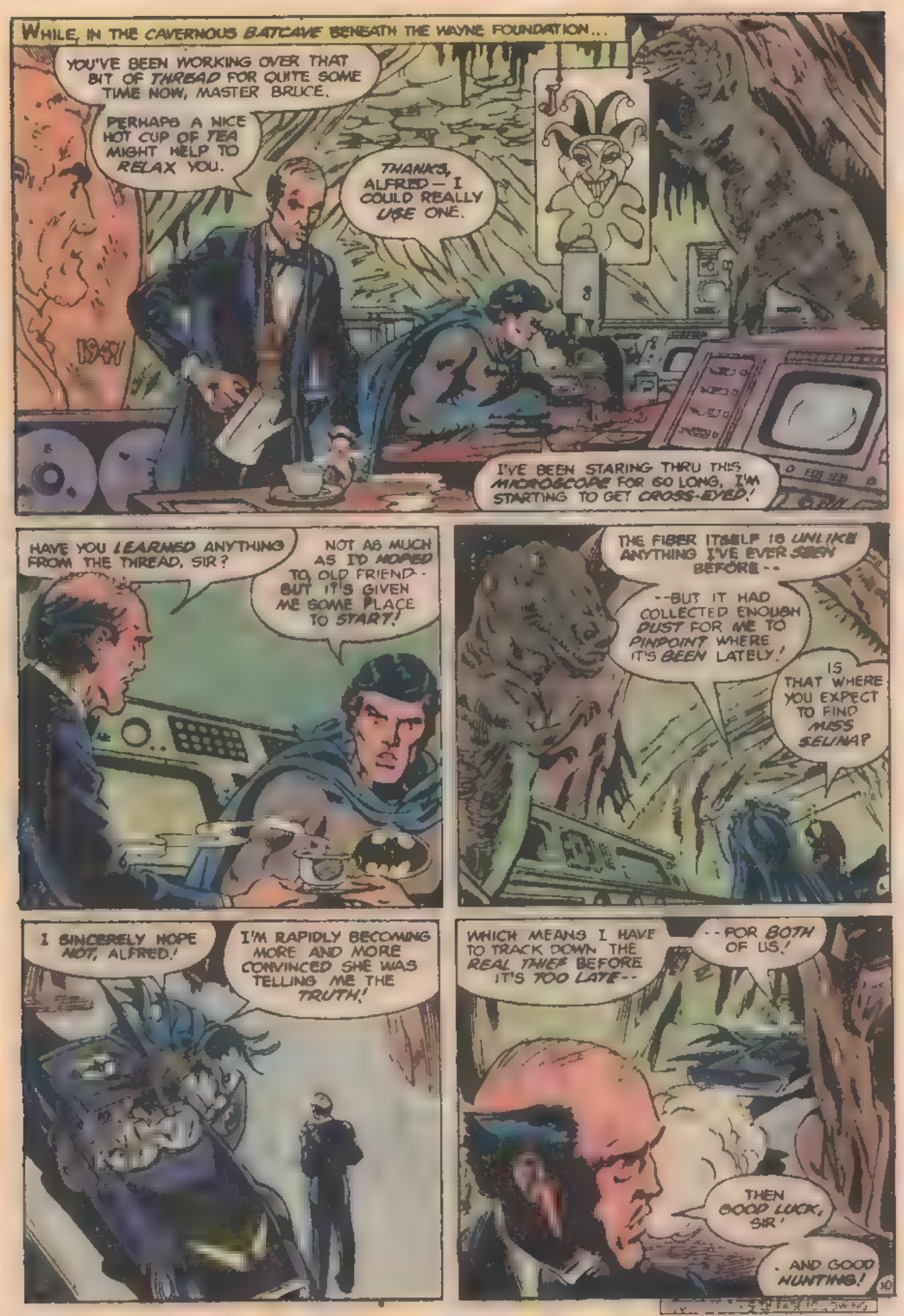

EVEN AS THE MAN CALLED PINCH BABBLES NERVOUSLY TO THE SULTRY CATWOMAN, IN A PLUSH EAST SIDE APARTMENT, BRUCE WAYNE'S BUSINESS ADVISOR, LUCIUS FOX, MUTTERS ONLY TO HIMSELF...
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE -- BUT PROFITS ARE DEFINITELY DOWN!
COMPANIES OWNED BY GREGORIAN FALSTAFF HAVE BEEN UNDERBIDDING WAYNE ENTERPRISES RIGHT AND LEFT-- AND IT'S STARTING TO HURT!
I'D BETTER DISCUSS THIS WITH BRUCE BEFORE IT'S --
--EH?
GOING SOMEWHERE, TIMOTHY?
YEAH, DAD... OUT!
I'VE GOT SOME BUSINESS TO TAKE CARE OF!
BUSINESS WITH THOSE TWO CRAZY SO-CALLED FRIENDS OF YOURS, SON?
AND WHAT DO YOU CARE IF IT IS?
AT LEAST THEY PAY SOME ATTENTION TO ME...THEY LISTEN --THEY CARE!
YOU'RE TOO BUSY BALANCING BOOKS FOR THE MAN TO NOTICE IF I'M DEAD OR ALIVE!
TIMOTHY--WAIT! PLEASE -- STAY FOR A WHILE!
LET'S TALK.
WE CAN WORK OUT THE PROBLEMS BETWEEN US, SON! I KNOW WE--
SLAM!
--TIM?
WHERE DID I GO WRONG WITH THAT BOY?
AND WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE IT RIGHT?
9


WHILE, IN THE CAVERNOUS BATCAVE BENEATH THE WAYNE FOUNDATION...
YOU'VE BEEN WORKING OVER THAT BIT OF THREAD FOR QUITE SOME TIME NOW, MASTER BRUCE.
PERHAPS A NICE HOT CUP OF TEA MIGHT HELP TO RELAX YOU.
THANKS, ALFRED — I COULD REALLY USE ONE.
I'VE BEEN STARING THRU THIS MICROSCOPE FOR SO LONG, I'M STARTING TO GET CROSS-EYED!
HAVE YOU LEARNED ANYTHING FROM THE THREAD, SIR?
NOT AS MUCH AS I'D HOPED TO, OLD FRIEND-- BUT IT'S GIVEN ME SOME PLACE TO START!
THE FIBER ITSELF IS UNLIKE ANYTHING I'VE EVER SEEN BEFORE--
--BUT IT HAD COLLECTED ENOUGH DUST FOR ME TO PINPOINT WHERE IT'S BEEN LATELY!
IS THAT WHERE YOU EXPECT TO FIND MISS SELINA?
I SINCERELY HOPE NOT, ALFRED!
I'M RAPIDLY BECOMING MORE AND MORE CONVINCED SHE WAS TELLING ME THE TRUTH!
WHICH MEANS I HAVE TO TRACK DOWN THE REAL THIEF BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE--
--FOR BOTH OF US!
THEN GOOD LUCK, SIR!
AND GOOD HUNTING!
10

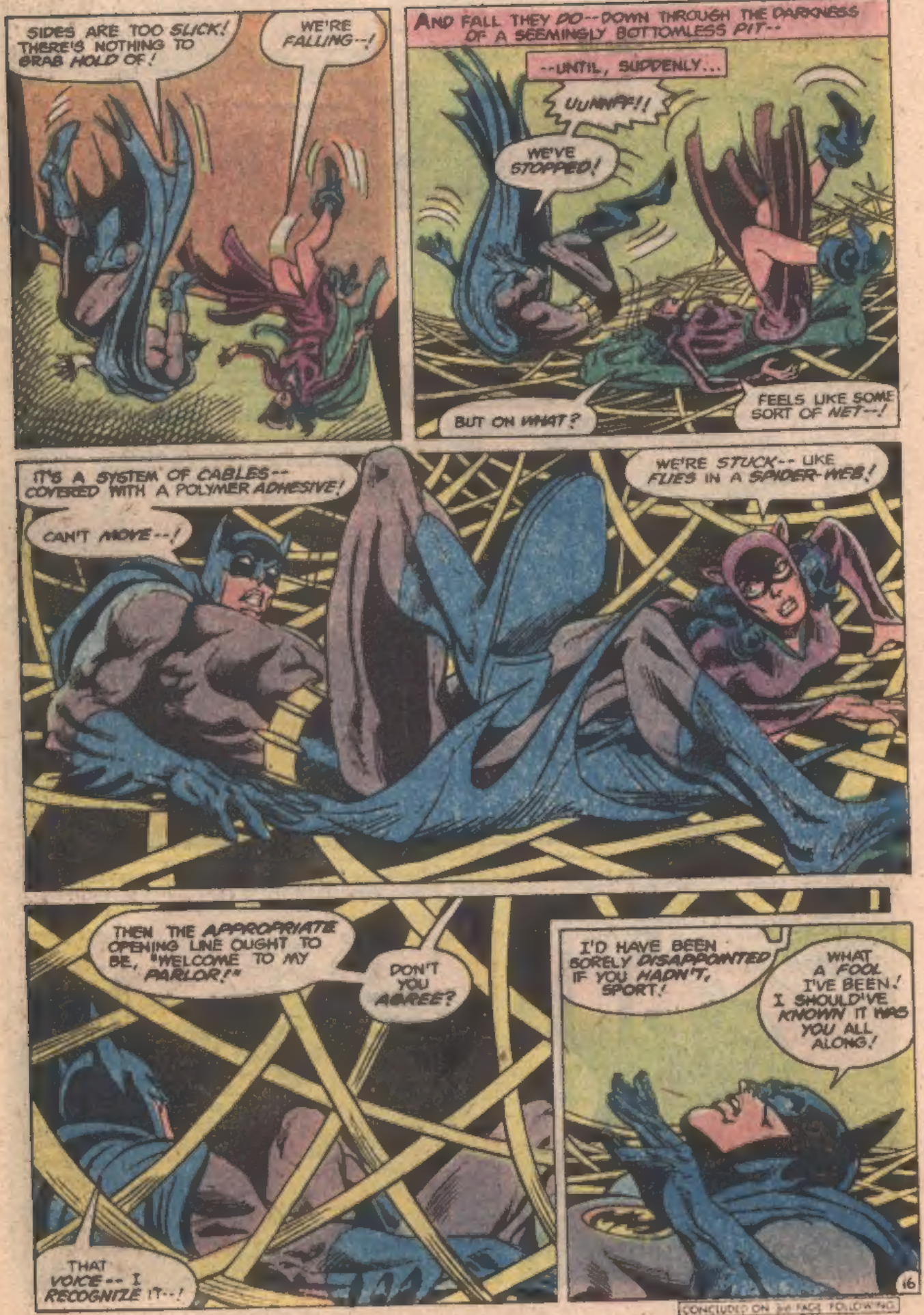
THE NIGHT SEEMS LONGER HERE ON THE DESERTED GOTHAM CITY WATERFRONT, WHERE SPRAWLING SHADOWS SEEM TO SWALLOW THE LIGHT
--AND ONE SHADOW MOVES WITH A DEFINITE PURPOSE!
LOOKS LIKE PINCH PLAYED STRAIGHT WITH ME THIS PLACE IS EXACTLY AS HE DESCRIBED IT!
THE DOOR IS LOCKED--BUT THAT WON'T KEEP OUT GOTHAM'S GREATEST CAT-BURGLAR!
IT'LL TAKE ME ONLY A SECOND TO-- UHHHHH!!
HEAD POUNDING LIKE A JACKHAMMER AGAIN-- BUT I CAN'T LET IT INCAPACITATE ME - NOT NOW!
HAVE TO FIGHT IT DOWN....!
WITH AN ALMOST-SUPERHUMAN EFFORT OF WILL, SELINA KYLE SUPPRESSES THE BLINDING AGONY THAT THREATENS TO CONSUME HER, THEN CAUTIOUSLY ENTERS THE DARKENED WAREHOUSE.
PLEASE - LET WHAT I'M SEARCHING FOR BE HERE!
THEN, AS THE BUILDING'S HEAVY STEEL DOOR BEGINS TO SWING SHUT--
--A SECOND SHADOW GLIDES SILENTLY ACROSS THE WHARF-FACE

THIS WAREHOUSE IS A LOT MORE THAN IT APPEARS TO BE--
--FULL OF HIDDEN TRAP-DOORS AND SECRET TUNNELS!
BACK DURING PROHIBITION, A GANG OF BOOTLEGGERS USED THESE WINDING CATACOMBS TO SMUGGLE ILLEGAL LIQUOR INTO THE COUNTRY!
THESE TUNNELS HAVE GONE VIRTUALLY UNUSED SINCE THEN--
--BUT ACCORDING TO PINCH, I STILL HAVE TO BE CAREFUL!
APPARENTLY, THOSE OLD RUM-RUNNERS SCATTERED BOOBY-TRAPS ALL OVER THIS PLACE--
--AND ANY ONE OF THEM CAN PUT AN END TO MY SEARCH BEFORE I'VE REALLY BEGUN TO
--HUH?!?
THE BATMAN--HERE?!?
AND JUST IN TIME! AN INSTANT MORE-- AND SEI NA WOULD HAVE STEPPED ON THAT CAMOUFLAGED PRESSURE-PLATE!
WELL, YOU MAY HAVE FOUND ME, HANDSOME--
--BUT YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO HOLD ME
BLAST--! SHE USED MY OWN MOMENTUM AGAINST ME--!

SELINA, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--! I'M HERE TO --
OH, I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, BATMAN!
I KNOW PRECISELY WHY YOU'RE HERE!
BUT YOU HAVE TO GET PAST MY CAT-O'-NINE-TAILS BEFORE YOU CAN GET TO ME!
CRACK!
IF THAT'S WHAT IT TAKES, SELINA --
--THEN THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'LL DO!
MY WHIP--! LET GO OF IT!
SO YOU CAN USE IT TO FILLET ME?
NOT LIKELY!
NOW WILL YOU PLEASE LISTEN TO ME FOR A SECOND?
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN SAY THAT I WANT TO HEAR!
I'LL CLAW YOUR EYES OUT BEFORE I... I...
SELINA, WHAT'S WRONG? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
MY HEAD-- POUNDING--!
CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT-- CAN'T STAND--!
13

LEAN ON ME, SELINA! LET ME HELP YOU!
I'LL GET YOU TO A DOCTOR!
I--I APPRECIATE THAT, BATMAN...
...BUT THE ONLY ONE WHO'LL NEED A DOCTOR AROUND HERE IS YOU!
UUNNFF!!
WHAK!
SHE WAS FAKING IT...OR WAS SHE?
SELINA-- WAIT! DON'T RUN THAT WAY!
BUT THE WARNING COMES TOO LATE! IN HER HASTE, THE FLEEING CATWOMAN STEPS ON THE PRESSURE-PLATE THE BATMAN'S LUNGE HAD SAVED HER FROM BEFORE--
KLIK!
--AND THE NARROW TUNNEL ABRUPTLY EXPLODES INTO BILLOWING CLOUDS OF SWIRLING DEATH!
NO! THAT GAS IS POISON!
THE GAS-FILTER FROM MY UTILITY BELT IS MY ONLY CHANCE!
MINE--AND SELINA'S!
CAN'T-- KOFF! KOFF! --BREATHE--!
14

SHE ONLY HAS SECONDS BEFORE THAT GAS FINISHES HER--!
HAVE TO TAKE A GOOD DEEP BREATH--FILL MY LUNGS WITH PURE AIR--
--SO I CAN SLAP THE FILTER ON SELINA!
THAT'S IT, GIRL! BREATHE-- BREATHE DEEP!
HUHHMMMPPH?!?
SHE'S STILL DAZED! HAVE TO FIND A SIDE TUNNEL--
--SOME PLACE WE'LL BE SAFE FROM THOSE FUMES!
AND SEVERAL INTERMINABLE SECONDS LATER...
MADE IT! I COULDN'T HAVE HELD MY BREATH AN INSTANT LONGER!
YOU... YOU SAVED MY LIFE... WHAT'S LEFT OF IT!
THOSE OLD BOOTLEGGERS CERTAINLY PLAYED FOR KEEPS!
BOOTLEGGERS, MY BOOT! THAT GAS WAS OF MODERN ORIGIN-- A RECENTLY DISCOVERED CATABOLIC AGENT!
NOW DO YOU THINK WE CAN STOP FOOLING AROUND FOR A MINUTE-- AND TALK?
OF COURSE-- I OWE YOU THAT MUCH AT LEAST!
THEN WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT CRACK ABOUT "WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR LIFE"? ARE THOSE HEADACHES MORE THAN--
--EH?!?
THE FLOOR-- IT'S ANOTHER TRAP-DOOR!!
15


SIDES ARE TOO SLICK! THERE'S NOTHING TO GRAB HOLD OF!
WE'RE FALLING--!
AND FALL THEY DO--DOWN THROUGH THE DARKNESS OF A SEEMINGLY BOTTOMLESS PIT--
--UNTIL, SUDDENLY...
UUNNFF!!
WE'VE STOPPED!
BUT ON WHAT?
FEELS LIKE SOME SORT OF NET--!
IT'S A SYSTEM OF CABLES-- COVERED WITH A POLYMER ADHESIVE!
CAN'T MOVE--!
WE'RE STUCK-- LIKE FLIES IN A SPIDER-WEB!
THEN THE APPROPRIATE OPENING LINE OUGHT TO BE, "WELCOME TO MY PARLOR!"
DON'T YOU AGREE?
THAT VOICE-- I RECOGNIZE IT--!
I'D HAVE BEEN SORELY DISAPPOINTED IF YOU HADN'T, SPORT!
WHAT A FOOL I'VE BEEN! I SHOULD'VE KNOWN IT WAS YOU ALL ALONG!
16
CONCLUDED ON THE PAGE FOLLOWING

FRANKLY, SPORT, I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT WAS OBVIOUS!
WHO ELSE WOULD THINK TO TRAP YOU IN A GIANT CAT'S CRADLE IF NOT--
--THE CAT-MAN, THE VILLAIN WITH NINE LIVES!

NEXT ISSUE (ASSUMING BATMAN AND THE CATWOMAN *LIVE* THAT LONG):

IT'S A CHASE ACROSS THE *WORLD* TO CAPTURE...

"THE CAT WHO WOULD BE KING!"

YOU'LL HATE YOURSELF IF YOU MISS IT!

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE SECOND WEEK IN MARCH